



Volume I

Nebraska Highway 12

Niobrara East And West

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

October 9, 2015

Cooperating Agencies

National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Highway Administration
Knox County

Volume I

- Chapter 1.0 – Purpose of and Need For the Project
- Chapter 2.0 – Alternatives
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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NEBRASKA HIGHWAY 12 NIOBRARA EAST AND WEST PROJECT

Applicant:
Nebraska Department of Roads

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District
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October 2015

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29 September 2015
Date



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This Draft Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc., and engineering and environmental consulting firm, with guidance, participation, and independent evaluation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Corps, in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.5(a) and (c), is in agreement with the findings of the analysis, and approves and takes responsibility for the scope and content of this document.

COVER SHEET
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
NEBRASKA HIGHWAY 12 NIOBRARA EAST AND WEST PROJECT

Lead Agency: Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

Cooperating Agencies: National Park Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Highway Administration
Knox County

Jurisdictions in Nebraska That Could Be Directly Affected: Knox County

Abstract: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Omaha District, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in response to a Section 404 permit application made from the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). The purpose of the Draft EIS is to analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the Nebraska Highway 12 Niobrara East and West Project proposed by the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR). The Draft EIS informs decision makers and the public of the environmental impacts of the Applied-for Project and the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment.

The Applied-for Project (Base of Bluffs Elevated Alignment) is the relocation and elevation (including additional bridges) of two segments of existing Nebraska Highway 12 (N-12) that are frequently flooded and have incurred damage due to high water levels associated with the Missouri River. The segment of N-12 that is in the bluffs, including the segment that goes through the Village of Niobrara, will remain the same. In addition, approximately 3,500 feet of Highway 14 will also be elevated between the relocated Highway 12 and Chief Standing Bear Memorial Bridge. Once the roads are completed, the existing N-12 roadway would be removed to the existing ground level. The Draft EIS evaluates four alternatives to the Applied-for Project: (1) No Action; (2) Elevation Raise on Existing Alignment, (3) Elevation Raise on Parallel Alignment, (4) Base of Bluffs Alignment.

Reviewers should provide the Corps with their comments during the review period of the Draft EIS. This will enable the Corps and cooperating agencies to analyze and respond to comments at one time and use the information acquired in the preparation of the Final EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS should be specific and address the adequacy of the Draft EIS and merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.03). The Corps will conduct a public hearing on the Section 404 permit application and Draft EIS.

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Date Comments Must Be Received By: November 23, 2015

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ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SHORT FORMS

ABB	American burying beetle
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BMP	best management practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DHHS	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISA	Energy Independence and Security Act
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
ESH	Emergent Sandbar Habitat
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration

FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FR	Federal Register
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended in 1964
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HWS	HWS Consulting Group, Inc.
IDW	Investigation-Derived Waste
Lake	Lewis and Clark Lake
LAWCON	Land and Water Conservation [Fund]
LEDPA	least environmentally damaging practicable alternative
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LOMA	Letter of Map Amendment
LOMC	Letter of Map Change
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
LOS	level of service
MAF	million acre feet
Mainstem System	Missouri River Mainstem System
Master Manual	Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MM	mile marker
MNRR	Missouri National Recreational River
mph	miles per hour
MRRIC	Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee
mvm	million vehicle miles

N-9	Nebraska Highway 9
N-12	Nebraska Highway 12
N-14	Nebraska Highway 14
N-57	Nebraska Highway 57
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [Chapter 4 – Hall]
NDEQ	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
NDOR	Nebraska Department of Roads
Neb. Rev. Stat.	Nebraska Revised Statutes
Nebraska DNR	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
NED	National Elevation Dataset
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
NESCA	Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act
NGPC	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
NHT	National Historic Trail
NNHP	Nebraska Natural Heritage Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSHS	Nebraska State Historical Society
ORV	outstandingly remarkable value
PEM	palustrine emergent
PFO	palustrine forested
project	Nebraska Highway 12 Niobrara East and West Project

PSS	palustrine scrub-shrub
PUB	palustrine unconsolidated bottom
REC	recognized environmental condition
RM	river mile
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
S-54D	Spur 54D
SD-37	South Dakota Highway 37
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
Study	Lewis and Clark Lake Sediment Management Study
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
T&E	threatened and endangered
TCLP	Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
TMDL	total maximum daily load
Uniform Act	Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
USC	United States Code
USD	University of South Dakota
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VCP	Voluntary Cleanup Program

vpd vehicles per day

WMA Wildlife Management Area

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